

October 7, 2013

Dear Michigan Legislator:

I am writing to urge your support for Senate Joint Resolution V, a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) Convention Application.

In the mid-1990s we came close to getting the votes required to propose a BBA in Congress. But when that effort failed there was a long hiatus during which a number of states rescinded their resolutions calling for a BBA, and interest in this effort fell off.

Today we are at a turning point when the need for a BBA is critical and when the support for it, especially at the grass roots level, is gaining momentum. The Congressional Budget Office projects that under current law federal deficits will continue to grow and the federal debt will increase to unsustainable levels. This unconstrained growth in deficits and debt will be accompanied by economic stagnation.

If we act now to reduce federal spending to equal federal revenues we can recover a sustainable fiscal policy and restore long run economic growth. But the longer we wait to balance the federal budget the more difficult this task becomes; indeed, if we wait and try to balance the federal budget a decade from now the task becomes insurmountable.

Given the makeup of this Congress I think that the last best hope for a BBA is an Article V Convention to propose a BBA Amendment. This will require an additional 17 states to propose a BBA resolution to get to the requisite 34 states required to call an Article V convention. Success in an Article V BBA convention would open up opportunities for the states to impose other limits on the power of the federal government, but our initial effort should be for a BBA.

Please add your vote to that of your colleagues in the Michigan Legislature who support the Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) Convention Application.

Sincerely,

Barr W. Poulson

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